

09/598,477  
DOCKET NO. NE-1005-US/KM

9

REMARKS

Applicant submits a Petition and Fee for Two-Months Extension of Time.

Claims 1-13 and 16-24 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 14-15 are canceled. Claims 1, 9-10, 12, 16-17, and 24 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Entry of this §1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the Amendments above narrow the issues for appeal and since such features and their distinctions over the prior art of record were discussed earlier, such amendments do not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and Applicant earnestly solicits entry. No new matter has been added.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-13 and 16-24 are allowed. This Amendment cancels claims 14-15 to place the application into condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-13 and 16-24, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

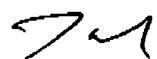
09/598,477  
DOCKET NO. NE-1005-US/KM

10

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 6/7/06



James E. Howard  
Registration No. 39,715

McGinn Intellectual Property Law Group, PLLC  
8321 Old Courthouse Rd., Suite 200  
Vienna, Virginia 22182  
(703) 761-4100  
Customer No. 21254

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment After Final-Rejection Under 37 CFR §1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Saba Tsegaye, Group Art Unit 2616 at fax number (571) 273-8300 this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2006.

  
James E. Howard  
Registration No. 39,715